

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/645,853
Amendment filed June 11, 2007
Reply to OA dated March 14, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 and 20 are currently pending in this patent application, claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 17 - 19 have been withdrawn as a result of a Response to a Restriction Requirement filed December 11, 2007.

Claims 1 - 16 have been amended, and claim 20 has been added in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 14, 2007.

At this time, the applicants would like to thank the Examiner for now indicating that claims 1 and 2 - 16 would be allowable if amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner in items 2 and 3, respectively, on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action.

However, claims 1 - 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the specific reasons set forth in item 1, page 2 and 3 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

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As indicated above, claims 1 - 16 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention, and in order to correct certain informalities, including those noted by the Examiner.

Also, the Examiner has taken the position that, in claim 1, "it is unclear what the connection or what structure * * * in order to perform the function claimed." It is respectfully submitted however that to amend claim 1 in the manner suggested by the Examiner would unnecessarily narrow or limit the scope of the claims to which the applicants regard as their invention; thereby, going beyond that which is required under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

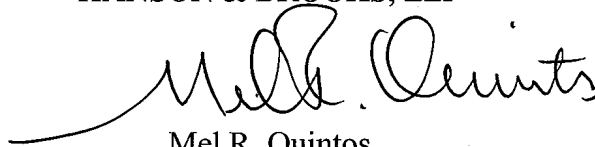
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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